

10/520871

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Anatoli N. Verentchikov  
Application No. : 10/520,871  
Filing Date : January 11, 2005  
Atty. Docket No. : 55387.023  
For : **TANDEM TIME-OF-FLIGHT MASS SPECTROMETER  
AND METHOD OF USE**

Commissioner for Patents

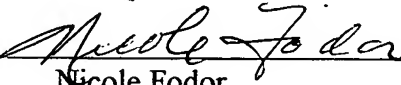
Dear Sir:

**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that the attached Information Disclosure Statement and related papers are being deposited with the United States Postal Service using Express Mail Service, Express Mail Label No. EV 436 429 543 US in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on April 15, 2005.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Fodor  
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P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the filing of the above referenced application and prior to the issuance of the first Office Action on the merits.

In accordance with the waiver of the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 USC § 371 after June 30, 2003, Applicant has not enclosed copies of the U.S. references listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. However, copy of the PCT International published application is submitted herewith. Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration of relevant portions thereof by making appropriate notations on the attached forms.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicant : Anatoli N. Verentchikov  
Atty. Docket : 5387.023  
Page 2 of 2


Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

ANATOLI N. VERENTCHIKOV

By: MILLER, JOHNSON, SNELL & CUMMISKEY, P.L.C.

April 15, 2005  
Date

  
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Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-0306  
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**Complete if Known**

**(Use as many sheets as necessary)**

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Application Number	10/520,871
Filing Date	01/11/2005
First Named Inventor	Verentchik
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	55387.023

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		WO 99/01889	01/14/1999	Merck & Co.,		

Date  
Considered

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

*If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.*